

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ARA-10 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /099 W
-----023906 071256Z /72

R 060822Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6505
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 5277

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, KE, SO, ET
SUBJECT: EX-SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO KENYA COMMENTS ON BARRE REGIME

REF: NAIROBI 3184(NOTAL)

1. EX SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO KENYA HUSSEIN HAAJI ALI DUALEH,
WHO DEFECTED FROM SOMALI ARMY TO KENYA JANUARY 1978, CALLED
ON ME APRIL 4.

2. WHILE MUCH OF WHAT HE RECOUNTED FOLLOWED IS PRESS
CONFERENCE OF FEBRUARY 28(REFTEL), HIS COMMENTS ON BARRE'S
SEEMINGLY PARANOIC CONCERNS OVER SECURITY WERE INTERESTING.
DUALEH SAID BARRE TRUSTS NO ONE AND UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO
INVOLVE HIM, WHEN HE WAS AMBASSADOR IN NAIROBI, IN PLAN TO
"LIQUIDATE" SOME POLITICAL ENEMIES IN EXILE. DUALEH, WHO
CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR LIQUIDATION HIMSELF,
PAINTED PICTURE OF BARRE AS ISOLATED, RUTHLESS AND CUNNING
LEADER.

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3. ON SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA, DUALEH TOLD

ME THAT THE BULK OF THE SOMALIS--OFFICIALS, ARMY
OFFICERS AND PUBLIC--HAD DESPISED THE SOVIETS WHEN THEY
WERE IN SOMALIA. ONLY BARRE AND A HANDFUL OF CLOSE
ADVISORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING SOVIET LINK.

HE ADDED THAT BARRE COUNTERACTED HOSTILITY TOWARDS SOVIETS BY WARNING "IF YOU ARE AGAINST RUSSIANS, YOU ARE AGAINST ME." DUALEH CLAIMED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOVIETS TO RETURN TO SOMALIA GIVEN PROFOUND DISLIKE OF SOVIETS BY ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING MILITARY. MAKING IT APPEAR AS THOUGH SOVIET RETURN WERE A POSSIBILITY SERVES BARRE'S PURPOSE OF TRYING TO GET ASSISTANCE FROM WEST.

4. DUALEH BELIEVES IT WOULD BE GREAT MISTAKE FOR U.S. TO FURNISH ARMS TO SOMALIA BECAUSE THIS WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS A PERFECT EXCUSE TO REMAIN IN ETHIOPIA.

5. DUALEH, WHO SERVED AS LT. COL. WITH SNA IN OGADEN, SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN F-5E AIRCRAFT WERE SUPERIOR TO MIG-21'S IN AERIAL COMBAT AND WERE EFFECTIVE AGAINST SOMALIS GROUND CONCENTRATIONS, PARTICULARLY GUN EMPLACEMENTS. HE SAID AGAINST F-5E SOMALI AIR FORCE FOUND MIG-17 BETTER THAN MIG-21. HE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT U.S. MILITARY OFFICER TRAINING. FROM WHAT HE

SAW OF U.S. TRAINED ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS, WAS SUPERIOR TO SOVIET OFFICER TRAINING WHICH CONCENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ARTILLERY. DUALEH ADDED THAT WHEN SOMALIS OFFICERS LACKED HEAVY ARTILLERY THEY WERE AT

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A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO. HE NOTED THAT SOMALI ARMY HAD YOUTHS OF 11-13 YEARS OF AGE AT THE FRONT AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN SOMALIA(DUALEH IS A NORTHERNER) SUFFERED MOST FROM THE WAR.

6. DUALEH TOLD ME HS IS PRESENTLY WRITING A BOOK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AND WOULD LIKE A PLACE IN A U.S. UNIVERSITY WHERE HE COULD CONTINUE HIS WRITINGS AND PURSUE STUDIES. HE IS A GRADUATE OF SANHURST MILITARY ACADEMY. I TOLD HIM I WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES.

7. COMMENT: DURING THE SHORT TIME WE WERE COLLEAGUES IN NAIROBI, AMBASSADOR DUALEH IMPRESSED ME AS FORTHRIGHT AND INTELLIGENT. I STILL HAVE THIS IMPRESSION. I CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE INFORMATION ABOVE, BUT PASS IT ALONG FOR WHAT IT MIGHT BE WORTH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, AMBASSADORS, DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB05277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0721
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780486/aaaacure.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b8c5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NAIROBI 3184
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3055018
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EX-SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO KENYA COMMENTS ON BARRE REGIME
TAGS: PBOR, KE, SO, ET, (HUSSEIN HAAJI ALI DUALEH), (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b8c5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014